

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3836

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS AMMAN 1099

USIA FOR IOP/M: INA, IBS, IPS

BEIRUT FOR VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECSTATE MIDEAST VISIT-MEDIA REACTION FEB 13

1. SUMMARY: STATEMENT BY KING HUSSEIN IN ST. MORITZ ON MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS TAKES HEADLINES, BUT SECRETARY'S TRAVELS STILL FRONT-PAGE. EDITORIALS TAKE CAUTIONARY TONE, STRESSING NEED FOR PERSISTENCE IN NEGOTIATIONS AND VIGILANCE AGAINST ISRAELI STALLING. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL DAILIES HEADLINE STATEMENT BY KING HUSSEIN DURING RECENT VACATION WITH SHAH OF IRAN IN ST. MORITZ, IN WHICH HE DEPLORES STATE OF NO-PEACE NO-WAR AND EXPRESSES GREAT INTEREST IN COMING VISIT OF SECRETARY TO

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INTEREST IN COMING VISIT OF SECRETARY TO

JORDAN. KING SAID THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE, "AND THE CREDIT FOR THAT GOES TO THE AMERICANS".

3. NEWS ARTICLES GIVE FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS IN EGYPT, NOTING THAT HE WILL RETURN TO ISRAEL TODAY "CARRYING EGYPT'S RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS ON A NEW ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI". SADAT QUOTED AS EXPRESSING HIS SATISFACTION AT "VERY FRUITFUL" TALKS, ADDING "I ALWAYS FEEL OPTIMISTIC WHEN I MEET MY FRIEND HENRY KISSINGER". SECRETARY QUOTED AS NOTING THAT TALKS BOTH IN EGYPT AND ISRAEL WERE CONSTRUCTIVE.

4. EDITORIAL IN PRO-GOJ AL-URDON STRESSES DECISIVE NATURE OF CURRENT TALKS AND NOTES PRESSURE ON US TO REACH AGREEMENT OF SOME KIND. "YET DR. KISSINGER IS STYMIED AGAIN BY THE EVASIVE ATTITUDE OF ISRAEL, THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF WHICH WAS SOME ISRAELI LEADERS' CALL FOR A RETURN TO GENEVA...BY SUCH A CALL, THE LEADERS HOPE TO AVOID THE COMING AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO KILL TIME AND CONTINUE THE NO-PEACE NO-WAR SITUATION..." EDITORIAL IN GOJ-SPONSORED AR-RAYY TAKES UP NO-PEACE NO-WAR THEME ENUNCIATED BY KING, EMPHASIZING NEED FOR ARAB VIGILANCE TO COUNTER ISRAELI STALLING TACTICS.

5. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN AR-RAYY REFERS TO "PRESIDENT FORD'S WARNING THAT UNLESS REAL PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED DURING DR. KISSINGER'S CURRENT MISSION, A NEW WAR WILL INEVITABLY BREAK OUT. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS WARNING IS THAT IT COMES WHILE DR. KISSINGER IS IN THE AREA IN AN ATTEMPT..TO PREVENT WAR MORE THAN TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT. IT LOOKS, MOREOVER, AS IF ISRAEL HAS PLACED NUMEROUS IMPEDIMENTS ON THE ROAD TO SETTLEMENT...IF PRESIDENT FORD IS IN FACT CONCERNED WITH BRINGING ABOUT PROGRESS, HE MUST REQUEST ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW,

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PARTICULARLY SINCE ALL THE WORLD ALSO DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL...ISRAEL'S PRIMARY SUPPORT NOW COMES FROM NO COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE US".

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